

Patent Claims

1. Method of transmitting signals, e.g. control signals, request signals, interrogation signals etc. in a control system comprising at least two units, wherein at least one of
5 said units is designed to operate as a master unit and wherein at least one of said units is designed to operate as a slave unit,
- whereby a plurality of channels may be used for the transmission,
- whereby a master unit performs the steps of detecting a vacant channel and transmitting a signal via said vacant channel, and
10 - whereby at least a slave unit performs the step of scanning the channels for transmitted signals.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said signal transmitted by said master unit comprises a preamble having a length corresponding
15 at least to the time required for said at least slave one unit to test said channels for a transmitted signal.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said step of detecting a vacant channel comprises testing for a carrier wave.
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4. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that said at least one slave unit performs the step of testing said channels for a transmitted signal by testing said preamble for a predefined characteristic, e.g. a symbol, a bit sequence etc.
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5. Method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, characterized in that said at least one slave unit performs the step of testing said channels for a predefined characteristic, e.g. a symbol, a bit sequence etc. repeated a number of times, for example two, three, four times etc.
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6. Method according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, characterized in that said at least one slave unit performs the step of testing said channels for a transmitted signal by testing for a carrier wave.

5 7. Method according to one or more of claims 1 - 6, characterized in that the number of said plurality of channels is two.

8. Method according to one or more of claims 1 - 6, characterized in that the number of said plurality of channels is three.

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9. Method according to one or more of claims 1 - 6, characterized in that the number of said plurality of channels is at least four and at the most 15.

10. Method according to one or more of claims 1 - 9, characterized in
15 that said master unit performs the step of testing for a vacant channel by scanning a plurality of channels.

11. Method according to claim 10, characterized in that said scanning
performed by said master unit is performed in accordance with predefined
20 algorithms, e.g.-possibly taking into account previous transmissions performed.

12. Method according to one or more of claims 1 - 11, characterized in
that said at least one slave unit performs the step of scanning the channels for
transmitted signals by continuously or essentially continuously scanning the channels
25 in a sequential order.

13. Method according to one or more of claims 1 - 12, characterized in
that said master unit waits for a reply when having transmitted said signal, and if no
reply or an erroneous reply is received said master unit proceeds with the step of
30 detecting a vacant channel.

14. System for transmitting signals, e.g. control signals, request signals, interrogation signals etc. comprising at least two units, wherein at least one of said units is designed to operate as a master unit and wherein at least one of said units is designed to operate as a slave unit,
- 5 - whereby said units are designed in order to be able to use a plurality of channels for the transmission,
- whereby a master unit is designed to perform the steps of detecting a vacant channel and transmitting a signal via said vacant channel, and
- whereby at least a slave unit is designed to perform the step of scanning the
- 10 channels for transmitted signals.
15. System according to claim 14, characterized in that said at least one unit designed to operate as a master unit comprises control means for performing a scan of a plurality of channels.
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16. System according to claim 15, characterized in that said control means comprises means for operating in accordance with predefined algorithms.
17. System according to claim 14, characterized in that said at least one
- 20 unit designed to operate as a slave unit comprises control means for performing a sequential scan of the plurality of channels.
18. System according to one or more of claims 14 - 17, characterized in that said system is designed to operate in accordance with a method according to one
- 25 or more of claims 1 - 13.